

TO CALL US

Circulation Office DA 5-1515
Advertising DA 5-6060
Women's News DA 5-6380
News Department DA 5-6060

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914.

Series II, Volume II, No. 121

3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California - Sunday, August 13, 1967

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month

16 PAGES

Final Rites Slated for Slain Torrance Officer

David Seibert Wanted to Be Good Policeman

By ED FREUDENBURG Press-Herald Staff Writer

"He was part of our total effort and he made the supreme sacrifice."

These words of Torrance Police Chief Walter Koenig on the death of Officer David Noel Seibert symbolize the relationship of an officer, whom his fellow officers said was always willing to help where he was needed.

Killed in the line of duty Thursday trying to stop a market robbery, David Seibert was doing his job to achieve his goal of being the best officer on the force, according to his close friend, Officer Donald Flaherty.

SEIBERT joined the force in April, 1965, at 23 years of age after completing requirements for a bachelor of science degree at Long Beach State College.

He had previously worked as a trainee, the forerunner of the present police cadet program, according to Chief Koenig.

"He was always interested to make himself a better policeman," said the chief.

Part of that effort was concentrated in on-the-job training with fellow officer Flaherty, who was one of the first to reach the scene of the shooting at Food Co. Market.

AS A NEW officer, Flaherty said, Seibert was naive as to what to expect but that he soon learned in the field.

"He was one officer who went out to learn. You never had to correct him more than once," Flaherty explained.

David was "always looking around to see if he could help people," he continued.

Part of that offering of help came just a few months ago when Seibert was responsible for apprehending a robbery suspect while off duty in Redondo Beach.

While on or off duty, Lt. Donald Nash said, Seibert was "an above average officer, dedicated to his work, aggressive in his demeanor and ability to handle himself in public."

Less than two weeks ago, Seibert was responsible for the arrest of 14 Mexican nationals in the Torrance area through acute observation. In one car he stopped at a car wash, Seibert made five arrests personally, which led to the discovery of another nine Mexicans in Redondo Beach.

But, Seibert also had a personal side that was not evident to the public.

"Dave had a great deal of warmth for his fellow man, not just other officers," commented Lt. Hyman Fischer.

Lt. Fischer and Officer Seibert were especially close in their relationship, so much so that Seibert would change his hours of work to be commanded by the lieutenant.

Lt. Fischer said Seibert would say, "I grit my teeth and put in for it" in speaking of the midnight to 8 a.m. shift which Fischer would often command.

The officer was an avid sports minded individual, Lt. Fischer said.

One week four or five officers, including Seibert, would go skin diving and a couple of weeks later Seibert and the others would go on a health fad, Fischer related. They were variable but they were enthusiastic, he said.

PART OF this sports enthusiasm was also carried over to his home life, when his wife Christine, 22, and the officer would ride bicycles through their neighborhood.

The couple were in the final stages of adopting a son after trying to adopt a child for several years.

In his off duty hours, Officer Seibert was a member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 383, Torrance 90507.



DAVID N. SEIBERT Rites Tomorrow

\$1,000 Reward Offered

A reward of \$1,000 was offered Friday for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Torrance Police Officer David N. Seibert.

The reward was put up by the Torrance Mounted Police and by Bob O'Neill, owner of the Pro-Lube Garage in the North Torrance area. Each has offered \$500.

Torrance police have named a 34-year-old escapee from a Tulare County prison farm, Jerry Lee O'Brien, as a prime suspect in the slaying. A companion of O'Brien's, Bartholomew James Blackburn Jr., also is being sought.

In response to inquiries from numerous Torrance residents, Dudley Cook, president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, has opened an account at the Bank of America. Contributions may be sent to the David Seibert Memorial Fund, Torrance Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 383, Torrance 90507.

Installation Set

The Harbor District and Southside Chambers of Commerce will hold a joint installation Sept. 14 at the Western Avenue Golf Club. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Search for Two Men Continues

Torrance's entire 157-man police force will attend funeral services for Officer David Noel Seibert Monday while the search for his killer continues throughout the state.

Police officers from surrounding communities and the California Highway Patrol will patrol the city while services are held at the Gamby Chapel, 25001 Narbonne Blvd., Lomita, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Dr. Frank Richelieu officiating.

Meanwhile, an intensive search is being carried out for Jerry Lee O'Brien, 34, and Bartholomew James Blackburn Jr., 32, who are sought for questioning in the murder and robbery at the Foods Co. Market, 17500 Crenshaw Blvd., Thursday morning which Seibert was investigating.

AS OFFICER Seibert entered the market, revolver drawn, he was shot three times by the suspect later identified as O'Brien.

The officer died two hours later in Harbor General Hospital at 11:28 a.m. of the wounds made by a .45-caliber automatic revolver. He was shot in the hip, chest and arm as he entered the market by an armed robber crouched behind a checkstand.

Police have issued an all points bulletin for the pair who made off with \$15,000 from the market in a car later found abandoned on Crenshaw Boulevard in Gardena.

"There's not a place he can go safely," Police Chief Walter Koenig said referring to the killer. "Every law enforcement agency is looking for this guy," he continued.

O'BRIEN'S mother, Betty Lee O'Brien, 68, of 10946 Hortense, North Hollywood, was arrested later Thursday by Torrance police for receiving stolen property and attempting to aid her son who escaped in June from a state prison farm in Tulare County.

Sgt. Melville Hone reported arresting officer's found stolen credit cards and a

The woman reportedly told investigators that she did not know what was in the envelope where police found the articles because she had just received them in the mail. Sgt. Hone said the material had been opened.

SEIBERT was the second police officer to be killed in action in the history of the Torrance force and the first to be murdered. Officer Robert Lewis was killed in a traffic accident in 1959.

Seibert leaves a widow, 22-year old Helen Christine Seibert. (See RITES, Page A-2)



JERRY LEE O'BRIEN Suspected killer



B. BLACKBURN Also Being Sought

Lomita Council to Meet

Members of the Lomita City Council will convene at 7 p.m. tomorrow for a regular meeting. Councilmen are scheduled to consider an agreement between the state and the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance for the improvement of Western Avenue between San Diego Freeway and 25th Street in San Pedro. The council also will receive bids for the sale of bonds in Lomita Improvement District No. 1 and consider a contract for work in the district. The session will be held in the Lomita Recreation Center.

Parking Restrictions Asked

Restrictions on parking along Hawthorne Boulevard have been recommended by the city's Citizens Advisory Committee and will be considered by the City Council Tuesday. The committee has asked that parking on Hawthorne between Torrance Boulevard and the northerly city boundary be prohibited between 7 and 9 a.m. and between 4 and 6 p.m. Mrs. Velma Shelbourn, president of the advisory group, said the committee realizes that limited parking "is far from a cure for traffic congestion, but anything that will help to promote the circulation of traffic will help." Councilmen will meet Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Burglar Gets Watch, Coins

Burglars got away with \$325 in coins and a watch Friday night from the home of John Merten, 46, of 1801 1/2 Ardath St. after entering through a window. Merten reported to Torrance police that the thief took a watch valued at \$150 and coins totaling more than \$160 before fleeing.



COLOR ME... ALICE... Pam Barton (right), 13-year-old modern dance student, meets a member of the Red Queen's Army of Cards (portrayed by Diane McDonnell) in a scene from "Color Me Dance," a recital to be given Aug. 24 by students in a Torrance Recreation Department modern dance program.

'Color Me Dance' Ends Modern Dance Season

A "Color Me Dance" has been scheduled by the Torrance Recreation Department for Thursday, Aug. 24, at 8 p.m. to conclude a series of modern dance classes.

Theme of the program is the traditional adventure by Lewis Carroll, "Alice Through the Looking Glass." The program will feature Sheila Sarger and Pam Barton as Alice, who will meet the White Rabbit, the Mintacore, the Red Queen, and others in the magic forests of the wonderland kingdom.

Kay Turney and Kathi Starnes, instructors for the modern dance classes, will direct the performance.

Hearing Set In Robbery

Two suspects remained in custody Friday awaiting preliminary hearing on two counts of armed robbery and kidnapping. Torrance police arrested them Tuesday for the robbery of Better Foods Market in Torrance.

William Herndon, 30, of 2261 W. Williams St., Long Beach, and Gerald Neese, 25, of 11208 Tudor Ave., Ontario, were ordered held for preliminary hearing on Tuesday in Division 2 of South Bay Municipal Court. Bail for each was set at \$11,000.

TOP CARRIER HONORS WON BY CARSON YOUTH

Ten-year-old Ricky Vanderploeg, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Vanderploeg of 1502 W. 220th St., today was named the Press-Herald carrier of the month for July.

"Ricky has the true mark of a businessman in giving first thought to his customers," Darrell Westcott, Press-Herald circulation manager, said in announcing his selection. "He is fast learning the value of sales effort in building up his route. His readers can depend on prompt, dependable service." Young Vanderploeg, who will be a fifth grade student at 223rd Street School in September, builds model cars and collects bugs for hobbies. He has a 4-year-old brother, Randy. Ricky's father is employed at Pacific Smelting Co. in Torrance and his mother is a housewife.

eran staff instructor for the recreation department, will introduce the program with a lecture entitled "Anybody Can... Color Me Movement."

CHOREOGRAPHY for "Color Me Dance" was developed by Miss Turney and Miss Starnes.

The program will be presented in the Torrance Recreation Center.

Members of the cast include: Lorissa Boxer, Joanne Carroll, Kristen Lolton, Claire Conant, Jenni Desmond, Karen Eubarger, Cheryl Fraser, Diane Hartwig, Julie Jones, Jane Koepcke, Laurie Kusano, David Newell, Susan Orman, Sheryl Ransom, Gail Renwick, Ann Rodriguez, Karen Schultz, Janet Schultz, Laura Shepherd, Heidi Swenson, Lisa Wilson, and Darina Rose.

OTHERS are: Kristi Sears, Terri Munday, Heidi Lee, Jill Allison Lott, Constance McDonnell, Rae Anne McNary, Rebecca Dao, Shari Freeman, Susan Eidemiller, Maura Arnold, Leslie Jo Swenson, Rena Peden, Carol Thurston, Geryln Prout, Michelle Hyken, Delonna Herring, Nancy Nokes, Carol Stueglitz, Suzanne Freeland, and Catherine Alexander.

Also featured are: Laura Kocsis, Linda Sarger, Michelle Smith, Maria Farham, Virginia Farham, Karla Wall, Marvina Tyler, Lilana Hibbard, Linda Kocsis, Deborah Freeland, Martha Lytle, Diane Alexander, Dianne McDonnell, Jeri Comer, Charlee Millman, and Dru Champion.

Narcotics Education Plan Asked

The county's Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission has been asked to develop a program to educate both youngsters and their parents to the dangers of drugs and dope. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who asked for the study, said the lack of adequate information about the dangers of marijuana, LSD, and other drugs "contributes to the growing disregard of the whole narcotics problem." Hahn said there is no source at the present time where parents and young people can get help "if they are caught in the web of addiction."

"Concerned parents have called this problem to my attention and I believe many others share their concern," Hahn said.

Two Face Robbery Charges

Preliminary hearing has been set tomorrow for two men accused of burglarizing the Parasol Restaurant in Torrance of \$3,000.

Both James Samaniego, 25, of 20530 Anza Ave., and Neil Lascelles, 29, of 7022 Compton Blvd., Paramount, were held in lieu of \$16,500 bail.

The pair was charged with one count of burglary of the restaurant July 12. Hearing will be held in Division 2 of South Bay Municipal Court with Judge George Perkovich Jr. presiding.



WAITING FOR A BUS... Passengers of an auto driven by Catherine Macagno, 28, of 4512 W. 182nd St., Redondo Beach, appear to be waiting for a bus after their auto collided Thursday with two other autos at the intersection of Carson Boulevard and Madrona Avenue. This auto and one driven by Darlene MacInnis, 17, of 1900 W. Artesia Blvd., sustained major damage. A third auto belonging to John Ruby, 38, of 206 Via Alameda Redondo Beach had moderate damage. No injuries were reported.